

The provisions Senator MCCAIN has included in S. 3059, while not perfect, are at least a better approach. The Senate bill focuses, not on false statements to government regulators, but more appropriately on a manufacturer's intentional failure to act to prevent a serious accident. That bill would make it unlawful for a director, officer, or agent of a manufacturer to authorize, order, or ratify the introduction of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment if he or she knew that the company had failed to comply with a safety standard or failed to report a defect; knew the condition of a vehicle created an "imminent serious danger of death or grievous bodily harm;" and knew that the condition actually caused grievous bodily harm or death. I believe this provision more directly addresses the problem and will more effectively deter a manufacturer from ignoring serious safety defects simply to pursue a profit.

If and when this bill reaches the conference committee, we should at least adopt the Senate provision. I intend to work with Senator MCCAIN to further improve the criminal penalty provisions he has already included.

This legislation also fails to provide the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the civil enforcement provisions that they say they need. NHTSA has been hamstrung by its inability to assess civil penalties administratively. Almost every other regulatory agency has this authority, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, and agencies within the Department of Transportation. While NHTSA has requested this authority, the House Commerce Committee has denied it.

This creates the baffling situation where members of Congress are attacking NHTSA for not enforcing motor vehicle safety laws more aggressively, while denying NHTSA's request for adequate enforcement powers.

Finally, there are also lost opportunities in this legislation. In the early 1970's, NHTSA issued a roof crush resistance standard for passenger cars. This standard is outdated and fails to model what happens in real-world crashes.

This is a very serious matter. According to NHTSA, in 1998 there were almost 11 million vehicle crashes involving rollovers. Over 3.6 million of those accidents resulted in injury or death. Rollovers played a part in over 15 percent of the passenger car crashes that resulted in fatalities. Rollovers occurred in 36 percent of sport utility vehicle accidents that resulted in fatalities.

This legislation should require NHTSA to issue a new roof crush standard. Our cars have changed remarkably since the 1970's, and it's just commonsense that our safety standards ought to keep pace with these changes.

Mr. Speaker, this is the time to pass strong legislation that provides meaningful protection for the public. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill so that we can work with the Senate to craft legislation that families across our country deserve.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5164, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of health reasons.

Mr. POMBO (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LUTHER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1756. An act to enhance the ability of the National Laboratories to meet Department of Energy missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science; in addition to the Committee on Armed Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2686. An act to amend chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, to modify rates relating to reduced rate mail matter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 3062. An act to modify the date on which the Mayor of the District of Columbia submits a performance accountability plan to Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that the committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker.

H.R. 1509. An act to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 2302. An act to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New

York, as the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building."

H.R. 2496. An act to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

H.R. 2641. An act to make technical corrections to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

H.R. 2778. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2938. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the "John Brademas Post Office."

H.R. 3030. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 757 Warren Road in Ithaca, New York, as the "Matthew F. McHugh Post Office."

H.R. 3201. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Carter G. Woodson Home in the District of Columbia as a National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3454. An act to designate the United States post office located at 451 College Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "Henry McNeal Turner Post Office."

H.R. 3632. An act to revise the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3745. An act to authorize the addition of certain parcels to the Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa.

H.R. 3817. An act to dedicate the Big South Trail in the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area of Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado to the legacy of Jaryd Atadero.

H.R. 3909. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4601 South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Henry W. McGee Post Office Building."

H.R. 3985. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14900 Southwest 30th Street in Miramar, Florida, as the "Vicki Coccano Post Office Building."

H.R. 4157. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Lincoln Avenue in Pasadena, California, as the "Matthew 'Mack' Robinson Post Office Building."

H.R. 4169. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Vassar Street in Reno, Nevada, as the "Barbara F. Vucanovich Post Office Building."

H.R. 4286. An act to provide for the establishment of the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge in Bibb County, Alabama.

H.R. 4435. An act to clarify certain boundaries on the map relating to Unite NC-01 of the Central Barrier Resources System.

H.R. 4447. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 919 West 34th Street in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Samuel H. Lacy, Sr. Post Office Building."

H.R. 4448. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 Dolfield Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Judge Robert Bernard Watts, Sr. Post Office Building."

H.R. 4449. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1908 North Ellamont Street in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "Dr. Flossie McClain Dedmond Post Office Building."

H.R. 4475. An act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.